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Ophthalmic Literature

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Vol. VII. JUNE, 1917. No. 6.

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PRICE FIVE DOLLARS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

Published Monthly by EDWARD JACKSON, 318 Majestic Building, Denver, Colorado, U. S. A.

Entered as second-class matter November 6, 1912, at the Postoffice at Denver, Colorado, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Skiascopy and Its Practical Application

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Herrick Book and Stationery Company

934 15th Street Denver, Colorado

Ophthalmic Literature

VOL. VII. JUNE, 1917. NO. 6.

Edited by EDWARD JACKSON. Assisted by WILLIAM H. CRISP.

JOURNALISM BY COMBINATION.

The most wonderful manifestation of power and efficiency, through coordination and unity of action, is that exhibited by the individual mind and brain working at its best. Let no one who seeks to bring about equal efficiency by the coordination and union of several minds imagine that he has undertaken a light task.

But in many fields of human activity the superiority of such a combination over the possibilities of the individual has been demonstrated. The corporation completely overshadows the individual in "big business." This is not only in material undertakings, like the operation of mines and railroads. The individual teacher seeks a place in the university, the individual writer expresses himself through the journal or newspaper that is the mouthpiece of a thousand others. However difficult it may be to secure combined, coordinated action, it is worth the effort.

The criticism has been passed upon the new **British Journal of Ophthalmology** that it was little more than the old **Ophthalmoscope.** But such criticism loses most of its point when closely examined. Consider the present circumstances in which it has become essential that one person should do the work heretofore done by two or three. To say that the journal now brought out is up to the standard of the one issued in far more favorable times is to rate highly the advantages of combination. It should also be remembered that the **Ophthalmoscope** was started forty-seven years after the Royal London Hospital Reports and twenty-three years after the **Ophthalmic Review,** and that Sydney Stephenson was fully familiar with the work that had been done on and through these older publications, when he planned the Ophthalmoscope. Under these conditions it is not surprising that the form and matter of its successor should show evidences of the same ideas regarding the conduct of an ophthalmic journal.

The journal that will be established by combination of ophthalmic journals in America will bear less resemblance to its predecessors. It will have a broader basis of editorial support, a wider variety of contemporary forms to choose among, a larger number of producing writers to depend upon for its original papers and more trained workers for its reviews of contemporary literature. It is hoped that some definite announcement may be made regarding it before the next number of **Ophthalmic Literature** goes to press.

TWO BOOKS BY OPHTHALMOLOGISTS.

The idea that the man who takes up the special practice of ophthalmology is likely to be more narrow in his intellectual interests

than the average physician, finds few facts to support it, and many to show it false.

Two books written by colleagues of national reputation, and recently published, illustrate the wide range of interests that an ophthalmologist may develop, and the extremely valuable work he can do along lines outside the daily routine of his practice.

Dr. James Alfred Spalding of Portland, Maine, has spent several years in the preparation of a work on the life of his grandfather, Dr. Lyman Spalding, of New Hampshire and New York, who was an early teacher of chemistry in the Dartmouth Medical School and in the school of Fairfield, New York, took an active part in the introduction of vaccination, and was the originator of the U. S. Pharmacopeia. He corresponded with many of the most prominent American physicians of his time, and preserved the letters received from them. These letters, with explanations of the circumstances under which they were written and of the persons and occurrences mentioned in them, form the bulk of this book. The work has been prepared in a way that makes it an extremely valuable contribution to the history of American medicine.

The other book is by Dr. John A. Donovan of Butte, Mont., whose skill in the hunting of big game is known to many friends, and who has recorded very valuable observations on the effects of bullets on animal tissue. In connection with J. R. Bevis he has written a volume on "Practical Exterior Ballistics for Hunters and Marksmen." The geometric figures, graphs, diagrams and algebraic formulas this book contains will not seem strange to a student of geometric optics.

Both these books are excellent contributions to the fields of literature in which they belong. To some extent they illustrate the carrying over into other departments of the exact methods of thought, investigation and deduction, which the study of ophthalmology especially tends to develop.

THE INDEX MEDICUS.

With the beginning of the present volume the **Index Medicus** changed the arrangement of its text in the page, so that it now closely resembles that adopted by this journal for its "Index of Ophthalmology" from the beginning. The arrangement of the authors' names along the right side of the column, each name starting a new paragraph, requires a little more space than the text in solid column; but the advantage of having the names so arranged more than compensates for the additional paper required for it.

BOOK NOTICES.

Wood, Albert Casey, Chicago. The Fundus Oculi of Birds, Especially as Viewed by the Ophthalmoscope. Quarto, 182 pages, 145 cuts and 61 colored plates. Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1917. Price, $12.50.

This study in comparative anatomy and physiology must be of interest to every ophthalmologist. The ophthalmoscopic picture never becomes monotonous or uninteresting. The pictures, here reproduced in the colored plates, present striking departures from the type of

human and mammalian fundus with which we are more familiar. The choroidal vessels often hidden, sometimes clearly visible, are there; but retinal vessels are absent. The "pecten" which dominates the picture is supplied by what might be taken to correspond to the central retinal artery. It largely hides the oval optic disc, and seems to perform varied functions about which there has been much speculation. A feature of almost equal interest is the duplication of the macular and foveal regions of the retina in most birds and the relations of one of these regions to the usual position of the eye.

But this book is not only a collection of beautiful ophthalmoscopic plates, with a clear description facing each. It is much more. It is an able introduction to avian ophthalmology, and as Dr. Wood states it: "The examination of the eyes of birds is a study of the most advanced and most varied apparatus for the highest expression of vision known to any vertebrate class."

After an introductory chapter, a summary of conclusions and chapter on the collection, selection and preparation of material and bibliography, there is given a review of the anatomy and physiology of the organs and tissues seen in the fundus oculi of the bird. Chapters V and VI deal with the ophthalmoscopy of the vertebrate eye and of the fundus in living birds, the latter containing some interesting original matter on the production of mydriasis in birds by drugs. Chapter VII discusses the macroscopic appearances of the fundus oculi of birds in prepared specimens, and Chapter VIII the effects of domestication and other abnormal influences on the fundus oculi of wild species of birds.

Chapter IX, the longest, takes up the ophthalmoscopic appearance of the fundus oculi in various orders of birds. The three succeeding chapters deal with classification of fundi and of birds by their ocular fundi, and of the relation of the avian to the reptilian fundus. The concluding chapter gives the colored plates and their descriptions. With regard to classification the author concludes that the invariable appearances of the fundi of wild birds may well furnish data for classification and that they throw light on the ancestry which birds hold in common with reptilia.

It is safe to say that if every American ophthalmologist could be led to study this book he would find his daily study of the human eye-ground more interesting and more productive of new suggestions. Its publication indicates on the part of its author courage and faith in his colleagues and willingness to make financial sacrifice. There are now in existence in America several very interesting collections of pictures of the human fundus oculi, none of which have been published because of fear that they would not be appreciated by American oculists to such an extent as to meet the cost of publication. We congratulate Dr. Wood on being a pioneer and on having done his work so well. The colored plates are of a high standard of excellence, and every effort has been made to secure their permanence by printing on good paper.

Fuchs, Ernest. Text-Book of Ophthalmology, authorized translation by Alexander Duane. Fifth edition; pp. xxxvi and 1067; 462 illustrations. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia. 1917.

The well-known text-book of Fuchs requires no introduction to American readers. This edition, however, is peculiar in that it contains additions and changes by the author that have not appeared in any German edition, as well as some radical changes in arrangement and insertion of new matter by the translator.

Foster, Matthias Lancton, New York. Diagnosis From Ocular Symptoms. 8vo. pp. xvi-490. New York: Rebman Co. 1917.

A book on the diagnosis of ocular conditions devoid of illustra-

tions, and from which they have been deliberately and consciously excluded, will strike most readers as peculiar. Dr. Foster says: "No one can admire more than I do the perfection of reproduction to be seen in the best colored plates, but these seem to me to place too strong an emphasis on what is simply visible, and they necessarily portray the details that are peculiar to the one individual case, as distinctly as those from which aid is obtained in making the diagnosis."

The plan of the book is "to try to utilize the symptom or condition that predominates in the mind of the examiner as the central figure from which to work outward toward the diagnosis, to collate about this the possibilities with the characteristics of each, and then to discuss individual diseases sufficiently to make each picture clear."

"Etiology and course frequently are valuable diagnostic aids, and are included as such."

The book is divided into twenty chapters. The first deals with symptoms, History Taking and Differentiation. Then come chapters on Lids, Lacrimal Organs and Sinuses, Enophthalmos and Exophthalmos, Deviations of the Eyeball, Heterophoria and Nystagmus, Conjunctiva, Cornea, Sclera, Anterior Chamber, Iris, Lens, Vitreous, Ocular Tension, Injuries and Sympathetic Ophthalmia. Fundus Conditions are considered under: General Considerations, the Papilla, the Retina and Choroid, Functional Defects of Vision, Headache, Neuralgia and Eye Strain and Physical Symptoms. Throughout the work it is the significance of symptoms that is dwelt upon rather than the technique and methods by which symptoms are to be recognized.

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Kirkpatrick, H. Cataract Extraction. Report Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, 1916, p. 9.

Of 935 operations for senile cataract, 45 were done by extraction of the lens in its capsule, and 890 by laceration of the capsule. This contrasts with the report of the preceding year, in which 350 out of 779 operations had been done by expression of the lens in its capsule. In these 45 operations, 38 are classed as successes, 2 as partial successes and 5 as failures. "The cause of failure was in every case due to vitreous impaction, which occurred subsequent to the operation"; and which resulted in iridocyclitis in 4 cases and glaucoma in 1. Of the 890 capsule laceration operations, 83.71 per cent were successful, 11.46 per cent partial successes and 4.83 per cent failures. Of the partial successes, more than two-thirds would have been counted completely successful if operation had been done for capsular or cortical remains. There were seven cases of sepsis, two of which were infected on the same side. In one healing was delayed, and on the eleventh day the section was explored and a tiny escape of vitreous occurred. Infection occurred two days later. In one case of Morgagnian cataract the nucleus had entirely disappeared, although the case was not of long standing.

Kusama, K. Pathologic Anatomy of Arcus Corneae Juvenilis. Mitteilungen aus der Medicinischen Fakultät der Kaiserlichen Universitat zu Tokyo, v. 17, p. 160-172.

Kusama reports three cases of juvenile arcus, and especially the microscopic and chemic findings with regard to two small pieces of tissue removed for examination. He found, contrary to what is the case in arcus senilis, that the epithelial layer, Bowman's membrane, and the parenchyma of the cornea, were all decidedly abnormal. There were vacuoles or fat globules in the epithelial cells. Interruptions and thickenings of Bowman's membrane, and fibrous changes in the parenchyma of the cornea, such as are never found in arcus senilis. The fatty substance in the cornea yields a glycerine ester, and the condition must be regarded as a kind of fatty degeneration of the cornea. No oxydase reaction was shown.

Lapersonne, F. de. Anti-typhoid Vaccination and Ocular Lesions. Archives d'Ophtalmologie, vol. 35, p. 449.

In a case seen by de Lapersonne a soldier, after the second or third injection of anti-typhoid vaccine, suffered from multiple abscess

and an infective bronchial pneumonia, in the course of which there arose a unilateral metastatic purulent iridochoroiditis. The patient recovered with a painful atrophic eyeball, to be enucleated some months afterward. He believes that such cases are extremely rare, and that the infection is not due to the anti-typhoid vaccine, but to a fault of technic, which may be especially serious in that particular connection. The anti-typhoid infection has given rise directly to very few ocular complications; corneal herpes, neuritis, iridocyclitis and glaucoma secondary thereto. Certain lesions of the optic nerve and tracts that have arisen may be explained as arising from a meningeal reaction. Primary acute glaucoma may arise at such a time, or chronic glaucoma may be aggravated. To connect such conditions with the vaccination they should be produced at about the same time as the greatest reaction, as indicated by the temperature. de Lapersonne believes it important that an ophthalmoscopic examination be made before the vaccination, and it would be prudent not to submit to vaccination the syphilitic, tuberculous or arthritic, who have had lesions of the uveal tract.

Weekers, L. Sympathetic Ophthalmia in War. Annales d'Oculistique, vol. 154, p. 196.

The teachings of the present war with regard to sympathetic ophthalmia are thus summarized by Weekers: That observations made during a war in which ocular wounds are very numerous demonstrate that true sympathetic ophthalmia is becoming extremely rare and tends to disappear. This diminution of frequency is associated with the progressively more rigorous application of asepsis and antisepsis in the first care, during the whole treatment and at the operations on the eye. The early removal of a wounded eye, even though lost as to function, is not justified as a prophylactic measure against sympathetic ophthalmia. There is no urgency for such removal for several days. By temporizing it is sometimes possible to save eyes that seem at first sight doomed to enucleation, and this becomes more important as the danger of sympathetic disease is diminished. When radical operation on a wounded eye is necessary it is best to give the preference to exenteration, which Weekers thinks offers the same guarantee against sympathetic ophthalmia as enucleation, and of which the results as to prothesis are better.

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Printed by Western Newspaper Union